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***Overnight Brief No. 7***

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**VENEZUELAN BUSINESSES PLAN PROTEST OF ECONOMIC LAWS**

(U) Business leaders planned to keep their stores closed and public transportation was expected to be idle December 10 to urge President Chavez to compromise on his economic stimulus package, report the media. Many multinational corporations were deciding whether to close for security reasons. Chavez might respond to the stoppage by sending peasants to march in the capital and by having military planes fly over the city. Anticipating a pro-Chavez demonstration at the chancery, post activated its warden system and asked the government for more security, comments the Embassy. (Watch/Embassy Caracas telcon, AP)

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